

**To:** McComb, Martin[McComb.Martin@epa.gov]; Hestmark, Martin[Hestmark.Martin@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** McKean, Deborah[mckean.deborah@epa.gov]; Cristiano, Gina[Cristiano.Gina@epa.gov]  
**From:** Card, Joan  
**Sent:** Fri 8/7/2015 10:29:57 PM  
**Subject:** RE: pH Assessment

ATSDR says 5 is the pH of coffee. If that's correct, we should put that in.

**From:** McComb, Martin  
**Sent:** Friday, August 07, 2015 4:23 PM  
**To:** Hestmark, Martin; Card, Joan  
**Cc:** McKean, Deborah; Cristiano, Gina  
**Subject:** pH Assessment

Thanks to Deb McKean, here is what we can say about pH (I only added a tiny bit). Is this what you are looking for? We are working on metals.

pH (a measure of acidity) was measured at a number of locations along Cement Creek and the Animas River to Durango and beyond to Farmington, New Mexico. Except for locations within Cement Creek, generally, pH levels were measured before the arrival of the contaminant plumb and found to range between 6.5 and 7.6. When the contaminated water from the mine rupture passed a sampling location, the pH lowered (indicating more acid) to approximately 4.8 (below Silverton). Later, however, in locations down river, the pH began to return to pre-incident levels. Water acidity levels in the Animas above Cement Creek have been consistent over the past two days at approximately 6.4 to 6.8. The pH of saliva is roughly 6 and the pH of pure water is 7. The acidity level in Cement Creek has remained low at 3.74 since the mine rupture.